



OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

Town of Arlington

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**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 8, 2005
Ground Floor Conference Room
Senior Center
5:00pm**

Board Members in Attendance: Dr. Carole Allen, Mr. Gregory Leonardos (Chair) and Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick

Staff in Attendance: Christine Connolly, Director of Public Health, Mary Ann Jacobs, Department Secretary

- I. The minutes of the September 20, 2005 minutes were postponed to a later date.
- II. **HEARING:** Requested by Mary Pat Dixon, owner 142 B Summer Street
At the request of the tenant, the Board of Health conducted an inspection of the unit and found it to be an illegal apartment. The Building Department has deemed the unit uninhabitable due to ceiling height, size of windows, improper exits, etc. The owner was present at the meeting and said the tenant has moved out and she understands that the area can only be used as an extra room and not as a rental unit.
- III. **FOOD CODE VARIANCE REQUEST:** Minuteman Senior Services
Minuteman Senior Services is the food service provider for the elderly nutrition program in the community and have sites in the senior housing facilities in Arlington including the Senior Center. The agency has requested that they provide a person in charge (PIC) at each site, not a certified food protection manager (CFPM). In view of their past excellent performance and a recommendation by the Christine Connolly, the variance was granted.
- IV. **MASSAGE THERAPY VARIANCE REQUEST:** Margaret Dreyfus
An email was received from Margaret Dreyfus requesting a postponement of her hearing in order to gather additional information. She has completed 448 hours of training and is required to have 500 hours. She did receive a license from the town of Waltham, but Arlington's requirement is 500 hours. She will request a hearing in the near future to discuss this further.

- V. **HEARING: Application to perform body art: James S. Quinn, Ink Jam Tattoo Parlor, 12 Park Avenue**
After meeting with James Quinn to review his plan and qualifications for the opening of a body art establishment in Arlington, and conferring with a consultant experienced in opening tattoo establishments, Connolly recommended the board approve the application and allow a permit to be issued. The Public Health Nurse, Diane Coste, will also be involved in the opening to review the sterile technique with James Quinn. The application was approved pending final inspections prior to opening.
- VI. **UPDATE: Combined Sewer Overflows along the Alewife Brook**
This has been an ongoing problem for years because of Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) along the Alewife Brook, which combines the sewer overflow pipes of Somerville, Cambridge and MWRA with storm water. When there is a heavy storm and the storm water reaches a certain level, the sewage flows along with the storm water into the brook. There is an effort underway to have these pipes removed from the brook and placed underground. Connolly reported that the agencies involved must correct the pipes by 2012 as required by the EPA. More information will be made available to the board as it is received.
- VII. **UPDATE: Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Planning**
Massachusetts is broken up into 5 public health regions, 1-5. Arlington is part of Region 4B which consists of 27 communities that surround Boston. Arlington is part of a region with Cambridge, Somerville, Newton, Watertown, Belmont, which continues on all the way to Cohasset, Milton, etc; – it loops all around Boston. The department will be holding a public flu clinic on November 17, and expect up to 1200 residents to be given the flu vaccine in 3 hours. The clinic will be practice for one of the Emergency Dispensing Sites. The departments is in discussions with Watertown, Belmont and Newton about starting a Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and hope to see it developed in 6 months along with a Mutual Aid program.
- VIII. **DISCUSSION: Dog Park and Health**
There is still no solution regarding a dog park and the Town Manager has asked the Board of Health to issue a memo outlining the effects of a dog park and the health of residents in the area of the park. Connolly has written, in draft form, a memo outlining what other cities and towns have experienced regarding dog parks. The board asked Connolly to include more information about the ideal conditions for a dog park as it relates to the health of the public.
- IX. **DISCUSSION: Massachusetts Department of Public Health Environmental Health Assessment: Cambridge Plating Company, Belmont**
The results of this assessment completed found there was no correlation between the rates of disease and the plating company in the towns of: Belmont, Cambridge, Watertown and Arlington.
- X. It has been brought to the attention of the department by a contract food inspector that the food code is vague about requiring temperature controls for cut vegetables. There is no evidence that bacteria will grow on cut vegetables, but at the same time, there is no evidence that bacteria will not grow on the cut vegetables. Connolly stated that at

this point the board should decide whether or not to develop a policy to keep cut vegetables under temperature control, her recommendation was to be more protective of the public health and enact the policy to require temperature control for cut vegetables. The state has said there is no information available at this point and the food code does not specify, health boards will have to determine on their own. A motion was made and seconded that all cut vegetables and fruit in restaurants be maintained at 41° F or below until further notice. The motion was passed.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 13, 2005 at 5:00 pm at the Senior Center.